

Private & Confidential

[REDACTED]

23 March 2022

Our Ref. FOIR 026 022

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request of 3 February 2022 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

Your request was amended to the following:

- The most recent risk assessment and/or risk benefit analysis carried out by NPHEP regarding the imposition of mask mandates in retail and other settings.
- The most evidence based recent risk assessment and/or risk benefit analysis carried out by NPHEP regarding the continuing imposition of face mask wearing by children in schools and other settings.
- Reports on the continuing imposition of face mask wearing by children in schools and other settings.

I have now made a final decision to grant your request on 23 March 2022.

All relevant reports are included in the documents released. However, the reports are not risk assessments or risk-benefit analyses, but rather sought to summarise the published data and evidence available at the time. These reports encompass a range of settings and population groups, and the publications that underpin the evidence are cited in the reports.

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Right of appeal

If you are unhappy with this decision you may seek an internal review. In the event that you wish to do so, please e-mail foi@hiqa.ie. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of HIQA. Please note that a fee of €30 (€10 for medical card holders) applies in the case of an internal review of non-personal FOI requests.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks, from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances.

Publication

It is the policy of HIQA to make decisions on non-personal FOI requests, including this decision letter and a copy of the records released, available to the public on our website <https://www.hiqa.ie/about-us/freedom-of-information>. Any personal information relating to you, such as your name etc., will be removed from the decision letter before this happens. This decision letter and the records released under FOI, will be added to our website approximately one week after today's date.

If you have any queries in relation to this decision, please feel free to contact the FOI Administrator, Sean Lynch, on foi@hiqa.ie or 085 8050586.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Teljeur
Chief Scientist

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